

atlanta humane society

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Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: Docket RM2017-3

Good morning:

On behalf of the Atlanta Humane Society and the thousands of homeless animals, pets and their families who we serve each year, I am writing to urge you to reconsider your proposal to dramatically increase postage rates.

We urge you to keep postal rate increases tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as it has been. The proposed increases - which are estimated to increase our rates from 28-40% over the next five years - will have a very negative impact on the Atlanta Humane Society's (AHS) ability to carry out its mission, and they will do little to reform the Postal Service.

As one of the oldest nonprofit organizations in Atlanta, operating since 1873, AHS receives no government funding and relies solely on the generosity of Atlanta's citizens to operate. We will provide 70,000 services for animals in need this year. Direct mail is the mainstay of our donor communications and fundraising, generating 25% of AHS' income and remains the single largest source of donation income to the charity.

This past year, AHS spent more than \$155,000 on outgoing postage (primarily at nonprofit rates) and generated over \$10,000 in first class return postage. Fulfilling our mission is critically dependent on our ability to operate and develop resources efficiently and in a cost-effective way.

AHS is not able to increase our budget to keep pace with postage increases totaling 28-40% percent over the next five years. Any expense, such as postage, that exceeds our means will result in reductions in our use of mail. These reductions will mean less revenue, limiting our reach and reducing the number of animal lives we can save, and the number of animals we can rehabilitate and place as part of loving families.

The Atlanta Humane Society urges the Postal Regulatory Commission to reconsider its proposal.

Sincerely,



Stacy Guidice
Director of Direct Marketing
sguidice@atlantahumane.org
404.974.2840